

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, EEC, USK, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH EDITORIAL COMMENT ON US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS

BEGIN SUMMARY IN EDITORIALS ON MARCH 18, BOTH THE
TIMES AND THE FINANCIAL TIMES SAY THAT US-EUROPEAN
RELATIONS ARE NOW SERIOUSLY STRAINED. A DAILY TELE-
GRAPH EDITORIAL ALSO COMMENTS ON CURRENT "TRANS-
ATLANTIC RECRIMINATIONS." END SUMMARY

1. THE TIMES SAYS THAT THE CRISIS IN THE ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE HAS NOW REACHED "VERY SERIOUS PROPORTIONS,"
AND THE NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO DECIDE
QUICKLY WHAT LINE IT INTENDS TO TAKE. ACCORDING TO
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THE TIMES, IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND THE REAL ROOTS OF

THE PROBLEM "AMID SUCH A RICH PROFUSION OF EMOTIONS AND THEATRICAL POSTURES." THE BASIC TROUBLE IS THAT EUROPE'S PRETENSIONS ARE FAR GREATER THAN ITS PERFORMANCE' THIS TROUBLE IS MADE MUCH WORSE BY THE FRENCH TENDENCY TO USE AMERICA AS "A STONE AGAINST WHICH TO SHARPEN A EUROPEAN IDENTITY."

2. THE TIMES URGES THAT EUROPE SEEK TO ESTABLISH AN IDENTITY WITHIN A LASTING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES. THIS REQUIRES "A SOLID BASIC ADMIS- SION OF COMMON INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS COMBINED WITH A SENSITIVE APPROACH TO SITUATIONS WHERE PRIORITIES ARE DIFFERENT." DEPENDENCE IS MUTUAL, AND "NEITHER PARTNER CAN AFFORD TO USE THE OTHER'S DEPENDENCE AS A MEANS OF EXERTING PRESSURE." BRITAIN'S ROLE SHOULD BE TO ACT AS A MEDIATOR, "DISPERSING MISUNDERSTANDINGS, DEFLATING EXAGGERATED POSTURES, AND COOLING EMOTIONS."

3. A FINANCIAL TIMES EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "DIVIDE AND RULE," SAYS THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN WESTERN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES ARE "SERIOUSLY STRAINED AND IN DANGER OF BECOMING MORE SO." THE FT POINTS OUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH EUROPE AND THE US DEPEND ON EACH OTHER IN BOTH THE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. IT SAYS THAT THE AMERICANS CLAIM "WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION" THAT THEY HAVE RECENTLY MADE INCREASED EFFORTS TO INCLUDE THE EUROPEANS IN THEIR POLICY DELIBERATIONS. THE EUROPEANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, DID NOT FULLY CONSULT THE AMERICANS ABOUT THEIR DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS.

4. THE EUROPEANS NOW HAVE TO CHOOSE. "IF THE NINE COMMON MARKET MEMBERS SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE, THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE NEW EUROPEAN PERSONALITY. IF THEY CONTINUE TO DISAGREE AMONG THEMSELVES IT WILL RELY ON BILATERAL RELATION- SHIPS AND A POLICY VERY CLOSE TO DIVIDE AND RULE. THE DECISION IS EUROPE'S AND IF DR. KISSINGER HAS SERVED TO CONCENTRATE THE EUROPEAN MIND, SO MUCH UNCLASSIFIED

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THE BETTER."

5. ACCORDING TO THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, PRESIDENT NIXON'S REMARKS IN CHICAGO SHOW THAT THE US IS MORE CONCERNED ABOUT "THE PROTECTIVE TRADE SYSTEM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET" THAN ABOUT A DIVIDED WESTERN APPROACH TO THE ARAB OIL STATES. THE BICKERING OVER THE PAST WEEK "DOES CERTAINLY

EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO AVOID EMPTY GESTURES, SUCH AS
M. JOBERT'S STANCE OVER OPEC AND HIS COMPULSIVE
URGE TO TWEAK THE EAGLE'S TAIL FEATHERS."

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